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THOUGHT POLICE GAGGING SPEECH ON U.S. COLLEGES

CAMPUS CLAMPDOWN A POLICE STATE GOAL

In this exclusive report, AFP correspondent Michael Collins Piper stands up for free speech by once again exposing a long-standing scheme by foreign and domestic pressure groups to muzzle U.S. college professors, who are outspoken critics of American foreign policy in the Middle East.

See THOUGHT POLICE, Page 4

Thought Police Back in School

Dangerous College Censorship Bill Returns Under New Guise

By Michael Collins Piper

A long-standing scheme instigated by the Israeli lobby to censor American university professors who are critical of unqualified U.S. support for Israel has once again reared its ugly head on. Capitol Hill. Rep. Patrick Tiberi (R-Ohio), joined by 13 of his colleagues — nine Republicans and four Democrats — has introduced a measure that will set up a "thought control" mechanism to satisfy Israeli lobby concerns about growing opposition to Israel on American campuses.

Tiberi's bill, numbered H.R. 509, is nothing more than a revamped version of an earlier controversial measure, H.R. 3077, which died in a previous Congress as a result of widespread opposition, much of it generated by news reports first published in ***American Free Press*** and then widely circulated via the Internet throughout the American academic community.

H.R. 509, which is innocuously entitled "To amend and extend Title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965," would set up a federal review board in the U.S. Department of Education designed to curtail academic dissent against U.S. foreign policy, particularly in the realm of American policy in the Middle East.

The pro-Israel lobby, represented by groups such as the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith, the Zionist Organization of America, the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, and Hillel — among others — has time and time again complained in a variety of venues about the fact that American universities receiving federal funding for international studies programs have included professors who have been allegedly "anti-American, anti-Israeli, anti-Jewish and pro- Palestinian."

Now, Tiberi's measure is designed to satisfy the Israeli lobby's demand that federal controls be established to censor such points of view on campuses that receive federal funding.

There is little in the legislation that makes the political and ideological intent (and origins) of the bill blatantly obvious. Indeed the language of the bill — like, much congressional legislation — is draped in bureaucratic euphemisms disguising the actual agenda at work. But any serious inquiry into the history of such legislation demonstrates that it is the brainchild of the Israeli pressure groups.

And while the bill's sponsor, Tiberi, has been quite open in touting his legislation, there has been little — if any — news coverage of the proposal outside news alerts issued by the Jewish Telegraph Agency (JTA), which describes itself as "an international news service that provides up-to-the minute reports, analysis pieces and features on events and issues of concern to the Jewish people." As such, JTA's reportage on the Tiberi proposal has largely been publicized in Jewish community newspapers across the United States and presumably around the world.

One JTA report on Tiberi's bill notes that supporters of the bill say "universities often promote anti-American and anti-Israel biases and do not merit funds that were intended to serve American interests," but admits that "many academics worry that restrictions will violate academic freedoms."

Tiberi claims, in grand language, that, if approved, his measure will strengthen international and graduate programs in higher education, saying that America's competitiveness and security needs are linked to a better understanding of other nations and cultures; that all of this, taken together, will help defend America in a dangerous post-9-11 world.

The bill was introduced in the House by Tiberi on Feb. 2, 2005, and the following members of the House of Representatives have signed on as cosponsors: John Boehner (R-Ohio); Eric Cantor (R-Va.); Luis Fortuno (R-Puerto Rico); Peter Hoekstra (R-Mich.); Howard (Buck) McKeon (R-Calif.); Jim Saxton (R-Mich.); Joe Wilson (R-S.C.); Dan Burton (R-Ind.); Danny K. Davis (D-Ill.); Ruben Hinojosa (D-Tex.); Steve Israel (D-N.Y.); Charlie Norwood (R-Ga.); and Anthony D. Weiner (D-N.Y.).

According to a press release room the U.S. House Education and Workforce Committee, dated June 16, 2005, chaired by the bill's cosponsor, Rep. John Boehner (R-Ohio): "The bill establishes an International Education Advisory Board to increase accountability by providing advice and recommendations to the secretary of education and the Congress, on international education issues for higher education."

The press release goes on to make the claim that Tiberi's legislation "expressly prohibits the board room influencing curriculum, disseminating regulations, or awarding grants." But a review by AFP of the legislation has found no such prohibitions, despite the claim made in the press release, which was generated by Boehner's committee office.

Note, too, that one of the cosponsors is Hoekstra, who was the sponsor of the similarly intended H.R 3077, a bill initially inspired by an even earlier proposal by two Republican senators, Rick Santorum (Pa.) and Sam Brownback (Kan).

After ***American Free Press*** learned of the scheme by Santorum and Brownback and focused on their intention of introducing so-called "ideological diversity" legislation designed to curtail criticism of Israel on American college campuses, the resulting negative publicity forced the duo to back off.

Angry that the scheme had been derailed, the New York-based ***Jewish Week*** published a story about the controversy generated by AFP's reportage, saying AFP's revelation of the Santorum-Brownback scheme was "a dangerous urban legend; deliberate disinformation at worst," concocted by "several leading conspiracy theorists and Holocaust Revisionists," which had become "an article of faith throughout the Arab world and in some U.S. left-wing circles."

In fact, the first and little-noticed report about the Santorum-Brownback scheme, which later spawned H.R. 3077 and now H.R. 509, was first mentioned on April 15, 2003, in the small-circulation ***New York Sun***, a stridently pro-Israel "neo-conservative" daily published in Manhattan. That report revealed that the two senators and several of their colleagues had discussed such legislation in the company of representatives of a number of powerful pro-Israel organizations at a private meeting on Capitol Hill.

Those who are concerned about freedom of speech on the campus would be wise to contact their representatives in Congress and urge that Tiberi's H.R. 509 be put to rest once and for all.

The U.S. Congress switchboard can be reached at: (202) 224-3121. Operators will be able to connect callers to their own representatives.

Illustration depicting a cartoon of a demonstrator pitching a pie in the face of a speaker standing behind a lecturn labled "Campus Free Speech Symposium" with the caption "Rep. Patrick Tiberi (R-Ohio), joined by 13 of colleagues — nine Republicans and four Democrats — has introduced a measure that will set up a `thought control' mechanism to safisfy Israeli lobby concerns about growing opposition to Israel on campuses."

A journalist specializing in media critique, Michael Collins Piper is the author of ***Final Judgment***, the controversial "underground bestseller" documenting the collaboration of Israeli intelligence in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. He is also the author of ***The High Priests of War***, ***The New Jerusalem***, ***The Judas Goats***, and ***Dirty Secrets***, all available from America First Books and First Amendment Books. He has lectured on suppressed topics in places as diverse as Malaysia, Japan, Canada, Russia and Abu Dhabi.

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